



**Community Mediation Minnesota**  
*Providing Conflict Solutions for all Minnesotans*

February 27, 2023

Subject: MN House Bill HF1712

I strongly support funding more youth intervention and diversion programs. I currently serve in the mediation and restorative service community after years of service as a public defender and Army judge advocate. Our children are a community responsibility. While more intervention programs make our streets safer, it's more about doing right by our children.

I have worked with kids who have endured trauma and they have little to no support. They would often become my clients when they would get into trouble as adults because of a lack of mentorship and healthy communities. As a community, we have a tremendous opportunity to get ahead of many problems and intervene while the kids are still learning and developing.

We have an opportunity to serve children that desperately need our help. Increased funding expands programs to ensure we are reaching all communities and cultures. There are many great organizations ready to increase their efforts to have a greater impact and they just need our funding.

I can be reached at [mike@communitymediationmn.org](mailto:mike@communitymediationmn.org) or 612-272-4989. I'd be glad to answer any questions and share stories as to why this legislation needs our immediate support.

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